

SACRED DANCE GUILD JOURNAL

www.sacreddanceguild.org

FALL 2006

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Festival 2007, July 17-22, Berkeley, California!

Save the Date!

By Connie Tyler

Festival 2007 will be held in Berkeley, California, right across the bay from San Francisco, from July 17-22, 2007. We will be housed in the University of California dormitories across the street from the lovely First Congregational Church of Berkeley (FCCB), where we will be holding our workshops.

FCCB has many wonderful meeting spaces, including five rooms with wooden floors of sufficient size to hold our workshops! We have set up our festival so that you can join us for the whole festival starting on Tuesday, July 17th with the opportunity of participating in our more intensive morning workshops, and our many

diverse afternoon and evening workshops and events, or, if you can't come for the whole festival, you can join us Friday evening through Sunday morning for a taste of it all.

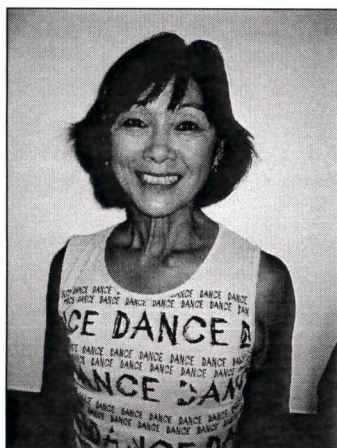
For more information keep an eye on our website at www.sacreddanceguild.org, click on Festivals and then on Festival 2007!

If you wish to be a presenter, fill out the form on page 11 and return by October 7, 2006.



From the Incoming President, Stella Shizuka Matsuda

The prayer of St. Theresa, although a popular and perhaps over-used prayer, speaks to my heart as I accept the position as President of Sacred Dance Guild.



"May today there be peace within.

May you trust your Creator that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there (for me and) for each and every one of you."

It is still with a bit of wonder that I find myself in this position. I am honored, humbled and awed...awed by your trust and support to elect me to

be at the helm of this organization. I hope to live up to the tremendous responsibility and tasks set by my predecessors. I pray and ask for your prayers to help me know the directions SDG should take. As a volunteer organization, we try to meet your needs as best we can. Please help us by being involved in our activities and Festivals. I look forward to hearing from you, meeting you and dancing with you.

What is my vision for Sacred Dance Guild? Having recently attended the Global Assembly of World Dance Alliance Americas held in Toronto, Canada, I had the opportunity of representing the Guild. Members from all over the

Continued on page 12

From the Outgoing President State of the Guild, August 2006

It is the President's duty annually to report to the membership at the annual meeting on the state of the Guild. In my two years in the Presidency I have come to understand that our "state" is always fluid. We are always moving, like good dancers, between what we were and what we hope to become. We are always developing and revising the choreography of our dance together.

This year we have made some significant steps forward. We have created our first annual report document and have begun to take seriously the potential of seeking grants.

Due to the excellent work by Peggy Arthur and her committee, we had a 2005 Festival which was very successful, both as a satisfying event and in producing needed revenue.

We are holding, in this calendar year, a second round of very diverse local events and Regional Festivals, building on the experience of 2004.

We have clarified many procedures with our administrative consultants.

We are in good financial shape. Our balance sheet shows total financial assets of \$105,660.80, of which \$61,442.50 is Memorial Endowment Fund. Due in part to an increase in annual giving, our operating deficit this year was below what was budgeted. In the future we will be combining our Festival and Operating accounting for a more complete picture of our financial progress.

One discouraging note is that membership is down this year. This is something that happens any time dues must be raised, as they were last year, but we also learned that in the transition to consultant staff and the multiple tasks they undertook, some practices of renewal reminders got lost and needed to be reinstated.

While we have turned over some of the routine tasks to our consultant staff,

we still have, and need, an active, hands-on, volunteer Board. The other officers and the Directors who have served with me have been hard-working, committed people who have participated in our administrative dance with grace and skill. I am grateful for the opportunity to be their official leader, as I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you, the Guild members, as your President.

I particularly thank outgoing Board members Annmarie Pittman, Toy True, Connie Tyler and Jolyn Walker for their work. And I am pleased to turn over the Presidency to Stella Matsuda, who I know will lead us this coming year with good energy and humor.

Ellen Roberts Young
505-532-9239,
EllenSDG@cs.com



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The JOURNAL is the official publication of the Sacred Dance Guild, a non-profit international corporation, founded in 1958, and providing members with information and opportunities for enriching their faith through movement and dance. Reprints of articles in the JOURNAL are by permission of the Editor only. The Directory is intended only for the use of Guild members in carrying out the activities and purposes of the Guild.

Policy Statement The Sacred Dance Guild recommends and encourages its members to list their SDG affiliation when presenting workshops and performances. However, the Guild letterhead, logo and name are to be used only in connection with official Guild business and activities, as endorsed by a Chapter Board, Regional Director or Guild Executive Board. Official address: Sacred Dance Guild, P.O. Box 1046, Laurel, MD 20725-1046. Editor's address: Toni' Intravaia, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901. © Sacred Dance Guild, Inc. All rights reserved. ISSN 1043-5328. Sacred Dance Guild Web Site: www.sacreddanceguild.org. Corporate subscriptions to the JOURNAL are available for \$35. Membership to the Sacred Dance Guild is also available for the following rates: One-Year Membership (Domestic AND International, US Dollars) \$50.00; Two-Year Membership (Domestic AND International, US Dollars) \$80.00; One-Year Student Membership \$25; One-Year Senior (65+) Membership \$35.00; One-Year Group Membership \$90.00 and Life Membership \$1000.00. For Non-Members, the JOURNAL is \$35.00 per year. Members receive:

- Sacred Dance Guild Journal published three times a year
- Membership Directory with geographical and leadership listings printed annually
- Calendar of Events published in the Journal and online with regional, national, and international activities
- Membership in Chapter or Region with local events and activities
- Reduced fees at the International Festival held annually in different locations within the United States
- Reduced fees at Guild workshops and those of reciprocal organizations
- Reduced cost for all Guild publications
- Opportunity to be listed as a resource in the Online Resource Database
- Opportunity to create your own website to be linked to the SDG website
- Ability to sign up for email reminders for events listed on SDG Event Calendars
- Opportunity to be part of the All Members e-list where sacred dance issues, concerns, and ideas are shared among members from all over the world

Subscription and membership orders should go to Sacred Dance Guild, PO Box 1046, Laurel, MD 20725-1046.

Deadlines for JOURNAL: August 15, November 15 and March 15. Deadlines for the Events Calendar are the same as for the Journal. Articles of 500 words or less, once activity, Chapter/Region/membership news, letters and black and white/color photographs should be sent by deadline dates to: Sacred Dance Guild Journal; journal@sacreddanceguild.org or Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, IL 62901.



Ellen Roberts Young and Stella Shizuka Matsuda

EDITORIAL

This summer I have been very busy with "And We Have Danced, Volume III". I need help from all you readers. Each volume has had a section on photography of our members. This time I need them dated from 1992 through 2006. Also, if you have a copy of Volumes I and II you have noted that the first volume had male photos on front and back; the second volume had female photos on front and back. Now, it would seem logical to have youth photos and group photos - so if you have any, do mail to me. (This was Ellen's suggestion when I talked with her before the Annual Meeting.) I cannot tell you how exciting it has been to prepare this Volume. It was like "sitting down and talking" with each of you through the years!!

The Mini Festivals have been most spectacular. Some of you have written to me about them and the enthusiasm is really "catching." There are a few still left, so do check out to see if any are in your area.

Another colleague/friend has died:

Letters to the Editor

From Kathryn Mihelick

Thanks to Susan Olsen for making me aware of inaccurate information contained in an article which appeared in the Spring 2006 Journal under "Award Winning Profiles" (p.6) regarding an award I received from the Akron Area Arts Alliance. The information for the Journal article was taken from a local Akron newspaper story which focused on the advocacy effort now in progress to seek ecclesiastical affirmation from the Roman Catholic Church for the validity of dance as a form for worship. The article states, "...she (Ms. Mihelick) took up the challenge to change a 1975 canon law." This is a misstatement. To avoid confusion, it must be clarified that The Code of Canon Law contains nothing officially prohibiting liturgical dance. The document being used by persons protesting dance is taken from Notitiae II, the official publication of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, and translated into English for the Canon Law Digest (Volume VIII). This Digest contains the "Officially Published Documents Affecting the Code of Canon Law 1973-77)." In 1975 the Notitiae publication included a brief unsigned essay which the Congregation labeled a *qualified and authoritative sketch*, that is to be considered an *authoritative point of reference for every discussion on the matter*. While not designated as actual liturgical law, it is still the only statement that has come from the Vatican specifically addressing dance in worship; and it expresses the view that dance is definitely inappropriate for use in liturgy in western culture, and should

Katherine Dunham. Although she was not a member of the Sacred Dance Guild, she still contributed so much to the modern dance field that many of you probably still dance with her due to her innovations in dance. My affiliation was in the notation of her classes when she was here at Southern Illinois University. Jolyn Walker notes: "Katherine was a pioneer in many ways. One special aspect she demonstrated was how dance and religion are one. This was poignant for me, because growing up, I was taught not to dance to religious music."

Please continue to send your news, as well as dates for the Calendar of Events, to journal@sacreddanceguild.org or Toni' Intravaia, Editor, 201 Hewitt, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, and send your news from chapters to Emmalyn Moreno, PO Box 357, San Luis Rey, CA 92068 and from regions to Patricia Bowen, 32 Fairbalm Street No. 2, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 7A3. The deadlines are August 15, November 15, and March 15.

"not be introduced into liturgical celebrations of any kind whatever".."care will have to be taken that in its regard a place be found outside of the liturgy".

We're taking them up on the introductory statement that it is "an authoritative point of reference for every discussion on the matter." So we're discussing - and developing expanded, contemporary, justifiable points of reference.

From Mohammadreza Belandi, Director of Leymer Folk Music and Dance Group of Boushehr

We would like to introduce our folklore group to you. Leymer Folk Music Group of Boushehr is a research group which is active in presenting folk music and dance of south of Iran (Boushehr port and Persian gulf), through performing dance, music, song, etc. or presenting research articles.

It would be a favor if this group participate in your festival, or performing in your country for introducing native culture of south of Iran with your cooperation. So if you would be interested to have cooperation with us, I will be so glad if I provide you more information about this kind of music and method of performing. I sincerely hope I would have the chance to cooperate with you.

I would like to mention that this group has begun its international activity in 1991 and has more than 120 performances in overseas such as Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Spain, France, Switzerland, Croatia, and Korea.

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Journal Contributors:

Toni' Intravaia, Editor;

Journal Committee: Editorial Staff

Contributors: Karen Josephson, Mary Jane Wolbers, Ellen Young, Mary Adamski, Connie Tyler, Kat Pettycrew, Jessica Sawyer-Ives, Suzanne Bevan, Ruth Fugee, Stella Matsuda, Kenda Newbury, Ann Blessin

Business Manager: Deena Sherman

Typesetting/Design: Frances Becque

FROM THE SACRED DANCE GUILD WE KEEP DANCING

International Dance Day, April 29

By Ellen Roberts Young

As an international and interfaith organization, we should pay attention to International Dance Day! Every year on April 29, people around the world are urged to celebrate and publicize dance. This has been mentioned before in these pages, most recently in Fall, 2004. I offer this reminder to encourage more involvement

in this event.

International Dance Day is a program of the International Council on Dance, a non-governmental organization under the auspices of the United Nations' UNESCO. The day was established in 1981. As you plan your coming events, whether in a chapter or as a sacred dancer on your own,

consider the possibilities of having an event or joining in an event related to this occasion. In my own case, my town, Las Cruces, New Mexico, celebrated this day last year for the first time. The organizer and I did not find each other in time to include my own version of sacred dance, but African dance and Native American dance were both included. You can be sure I plan to be involved next year.

In 2007, this day will fall on Sunday, an appropriate time for those of us who dance in church, and a convenient time for an afternoon program. In 2008, this day will fall on Tuesday, but we can all dance on or around this day, to call attention to it.

In the United States a separate organization supports National Dance Week, scheduled to include International Dance Day. Their purpose is to raise public awareness of the values, importance and contributions of Dance to our daily lives and culture. You can express your interest and list your event at their website: www.nationaldanceweek.org.

These programs provide a great opportunity to make our neighbors more aware of sacred dance and the Sacred Dance Guild. See what you can do this year, and in 2008, let's make visibility in connection with these events a part of our 50th anniversary.

As sacred dancers we should not forget that we are part of a world-wide community of dance. Let's celebrate this fact through participating in International Dance Day.

VIEW FROM THE PEW

By Mary Adamski

An East Honolulu prayer group finds spiritual resonance in rhythmic motion. Praying while swaying with hands raised in the air is not just for Pentecostals anymore. It's standard form in a lot of churches.

With contemporary church music assuming the rhythms of the secular world, there's a whole lot of shaking, clapping, swinging and stepping going on in sanctuaries.

Even denominations uptight about keeping worship separate from entertainment will allow some "liturgical movement" when it is contemplative and respectful.

Even so, the gentle circle dancing by the Prayer Cluster at Calvary-by-the-Sea Lutheran Church Tuesday felt like a throwback to the '60s, where interfaith sharing of sacred dance has its roots.

Maybe it was the sensation of dropping out that did it. Just a minute from pulling out of the bumper-to-bumper commuter intensity of Kalia Highway, the prayer group meets in a calm and quiet zone, a shaded patch of lawn with the sound of surf washing shore.

The group clasped hands in a circle as Fatah Borsos called them to focus on their feet "connected to Mother Earth. Bring energy up from the earth." Next, "Open the top of our heads to the heavens and bring that energy down. Let what we do be in remembrance of the one holy being."

The words come from his Sufi studies, he said later. The Sufi tradition is a mystical branch of Islamic belief, with practices of combined meditation, chanting and dance - the extreme end of which is the mesmerizing turning, spinning of "whirling dervishes" of Turkey.

The Prayer Cluster companions followed Borsos' lead in singing a simple tune which sounded like an old Negro spiritual: "One fine morning, when my work is over, I'll fly away. I'll fly away, I'll fly away to heaven."

They each spun slowly off for a circle away from the circle, including Ruth Quirk, 86, who is admittedly unsteady on her feet. Gloria Spondike was nearby, ready to steady her.

"Thy light is in all forms and thy love, in all beings, alleluia," they sang, arms raised upward, then hands crossed over their hearts.

Most of the participants are Christian, and "my way to connect with God is Christ," said Quirk. But "we are embrave ... if it makes your heart sing to connect with God. We do talk about Christ, but we are not afraid to say Allah. Sometimes we do chants that are about goddesses. Different people show up and bring their gifts."

We Came Dancing in Connecticut

By Karen Josephson

The exquisite studios of Connecticut College were once again a magnet for sacred dancers. During the first week of August the New England Regional Festival filled them with sacred circle dancing, yoga, Denishawn technique, a modern dance version of the 23rd Psalm,

body prayer, movement impulse in improvisation, solos and duets and trios, praise dance, Cambodian dance, and Spanish Sevillanas. Sharing was rich, new members signed up, the annual meeting was held, and a good time was had by all. Don't you wish you'd come dancing too?

We Came Dancing with Dance Legends Matteo and Mary Anthony

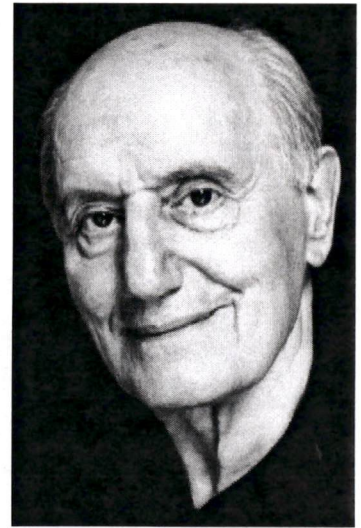
By Mary Jane Wolbers

The New York/Southwest Connecticut Chapter of the Sacred Dance Guild distinguished itself by sponsoring a highly successful Regional Festival in New York City on April 30, 2006. Interactions between Chapter members, seasoned Festival regulars, and dancers new to the field were lively and warm. Enthusiastic adult participants enjoyed the master classes while eager young children attended *Kids Come Dancing* concurrent sessions on choreography in an alternate space, coordinated by Rev. Ruby Wiles.

Mary's presentation focused on modern dance technique and group improvisation. Matteo explored mudras of classical East Indian dance as expressions

of *Your Trinity Within*, capably assisted by Chapter President Betsy O'Neill. Then Betsy moderated a panel discussion in which Mary and Matteo shared sacred dance experiences in their lives and work. Both have endeared themselves to the Guild over the years serving Festival and workshop faculties.

Back in the 1960s, Mary welcomed Guild leaders to her N.Y.C. studio where Executive Board members met and trained for the first public performance of a SDG dancing Board in Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. Matteo has long been recognized as the Guild's *ambassador extraordinaire*, publicizing our organization internationally when on world-wide tours.



Matteo

Will You, Won't You, Join in the Dance A Brief History of the Rocky Mountain Sacred Dance Guild

By Ann Marie Blessin

The Rocky Mountain area established a sacred dance guild in the 1970's. A guild, in the dictionary, is described as an association of people with kindred pursuits or common interests or aims. A group called the Jubilate Dancers, who danced under the direction of Connie Fisher, were some of the founding members of the Rocky Mountain Sacred Dance Guild.

Some of the presidents during the seventies were Faye Beck, Betty Walker, Carla Gilbert and Dory Duncan. The director of the Jubilate Dancers, Connie Fisher, was one of the founding mothers of sacred dance here in the Rocky Mountain region. She was a strong influence not only here, but throughout the United States. Connie believed that worship celebrates all of life, and she laughed at the "God is dead" theology and danced her way through many churches and communities showing that God was alive and well and dancing.

The Rocky Mountain Sacred Dance Guild was very active during the 70's and 80's, even sponsoring two national festivals, one in 1980, the other in 1988. During this time the Rocky Mountain Sacred Dance Guild was busy teaching workshops and dancing liturgies in various churches, hospitals, schools, and nursing homes. This was a ministry that had far reaching effects throughout the Rocky Mountain region under Connie's

leadership.

I entered the sacred dance in 1969 when my choir director, Lee Fiser at Park Hill United Methodist Church asked me to choreograph Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" for Epiphany. I was a Scottish dancing teacher and my students agreed to do this. So from there my great adventure in sacred dance ministry began. Lee said to me, "You need to meet a friend of mine, Connie Fisher." In 1970 I joined the Jubilate Dancers and studied with my mentor, Connie, for the next 10 years. During this time I returned to school at Colorado Women's College furthering my studies in dance and health science.

Ronald Rolheiser, in his book, "The Holy Longing" states that we, as human beings, all have a holy longing and that everyone is on a search for deeper spirituality. Sacred dance is one of the ways we can fulfill that holy longing. Sacred dance is not new. It is ancient and started as far back as we can imagine. Dance embodies our spirituality and to be a whole person we need to include body, mind and spirit in our worship. Something is deeply missing when we leave out the body. When dancing in bare feet connecting to the earth, whirling, leaping, beating rhythmically, our senses are stirred, a sensual awareness of the earth through the body is realized. Through the dance we connect to God. We are

awakened to richer or greater possibilities when we include the person. The Sacred Dance Guild promotes sacred dance as prayer; and as a means of spiritual growth, connection to the creator and integration of mind, body and spirit.

The Rocky Mountain Sacred Dance Guild continued to grow in strength and numbers and then in 1984 joined the National Sacred Dance Guild and became a chapter. I was president of the Rocky Mountain Chapter for about eight years, and during 1995-1996 became president of the National body, comprised of 600 members.

Sadly, in 1990, Connie died and a deep sense of loss was felt by everyone. The local chapter in Colorado struggled through the nineties and now in the millennium, a new sense of energy is being felt as we rekindle the fire under the Guild. We will continue doing workshops and our "May Sharing," and extend a helping hand to get others started in sacred dance.

Connie always said, "The strength and beauty of the dance speaks for itself. It is an important artistic expressive part of our lives." So the sacred dance guild continues on, marching out to others so that we can all more fully experience and enjoy our worship and spirituality. So, "Will you, won't you, join in the dance?" I promise you the journey will not be dull.

SDG Has a New Website Host

By Connie Tyler

Well, just after I spent all that time figuring out how to put instructions on how to use the website in our SDG Directory, what did we do? We changed everything!

In 2001, my husband, Kenneth, and I took over the website after the death of our dear member Colley Ballou, who had run our website with her son, Scott. Kenneth wanted to try to create a website that was very easy for people all over the country to help with so that getting information on our website did not become a bottleneck as on so many other websites. He created a website that ran on a database, and many people did learn how to add to it, but it still wasn't that easy!

Later he created a new website design, based on the concept of a "wiki" (as in wikipedia). He called it Seedwiki, because it was a "wiki" farm, a place where many different people could create their own websites. Wiki's were great because they were so easy to add to and edit, but they also were easy for other people to add to and edit. He discovered that strangers making unwanted changes on websites hardly ever happened, but still, while we wanted ease, we didn't want to take the chance that our website might be sabotaged.

Kenneth, and his partner, Stephan, began to work on the concept of wiki's for small businesses, easy to edit, but with some ways of controlling who did the editing. Now a person could have a free wiki with very little control, or pay a little money and have a wiki with pages that can't be changed without permission of the owner.

Now we were ready to move our website over to Seedwiki. In addition, our new administrator, Peggy Hoffman, and her husband, Peter, wanted the financial end of membership to go through the kind of database they were used to working on. Kenneth and I were glad to not have the complications of the finances going through the online database. It seemed a good time to make all of these changes at once, so we spent most of the spring and summer moving the old website to the new Seedwiki site and splitting the database, coordinating with Peter and Peggy to create a database that they can update with the new information they get from renewals and new memberships to go onto our online membership Directory.

Of course, there were mistakes made, unintended results, etc., but at this point we are mostly finished with the move and ready to go on to new development.

So, please ignore most of the instructions in your Directory! Here are the:

New Website Instructions!

1. Having trouble getting on the site?

It may be that you are using a "Favorite" or other saved link that used to take you to the old website. Now it takes you to an error message! Delete that old link and put <http://www.sacreddanceguild.org> in your browser's address line. Once you have the new website up, save it as a favorite!

2. Want to get on to the members Directory or another of the Members Only pages? Don't put your password in at the bottom of the page like we used to! The login at the bottom of the page is for Seedwiki. Go to the menu item on the left that says SDG Members Only and put your password in there. A menu of Members Only pages will appear. The searchable Directory is there.

3. Want to change your contact information? Unfortunately this capability has not been redone for the new website yet, but watch for it to show up soon. Meanwhile, contact Peggy Hoffman at info@sacreddanceguild.org.

4. Want to renew your membership? Click on Renew in the Home page menu. You can renew online using Verisign security, or make a copy of the form and mail it in. Or use the "Join" menu item to buy a membership for a friend!

5. Want to add an event to an Event Calendar? This has changed very little. Click on Events Calendars in the menu. You will find a page with a listing of Regions and Chapters. Put your event in the region the event will be held. Now that SDG has larger regions you won't need to put a one day event in lots of different calendars to cover the area you could logically expect people to come from. Of course, if the event is at the edge of a Region, you certainly can put your event in more than one Region calendar! You can also put it in the Chapter calendar. If the event lasts more than one day, and people might logically travel to go to it, click on

Longer Events at the top of the page and put it that calendar.

6. Want to see more details about an event in an Event Calendar? Click on the title of the event and the details will open up. Click on the title again to close it.

7. Want to email an event or any SDG website page to someone? Click on Email page in the left hand menu and put in the email address you want to send it to, and your email address, and a short message.

8. At this writing the Virtual Library has not been moved to the new site, but will be soon.

9. Now, here's the exciting part. You can help with the website. If you see a typo you want changed, you can change it yourself by clicking on Edit and then making the change. The change will not show up on the website until you email me at connie@deephum.com and tell me the change you made. Then I will "accept" the change.

If you are in a Chapter or Region and want to help with the website you can ask to be the website coordinator for your Chapter or Region section (called a "wiki"). You will be given permission to make immediate changes on your wiki and making the changes is as easy as writing on a word processor. Just click on Edit, and type in your changes.

If you want to have a wiki on the website about some particular area of Sacred Dance you can ask to be an "owner" of that wiki. How about a wiki on "Liturgical Hip Hop"? Or one on Flags and Ribbons? How about one on Sacred Circle Dance, or Yoga, or Dance in the Methodist Church, or Hindu Temple Dancing? Are you interested in some particular aspect of Sacred Dance? Take charge and be the one who presents it on our website!

Questions about other functions on the website? Email me at connie@deephum.com!

Dance in Arizona

By Kenda Newbury, Artistic Director, AZDance Group

Dance in Arizona is flourishing. Sacred Dance is strong. However, collecting comments from current members, and gathering information about dancers that might be interested in SDG and finding these groups and/or people and keeping communication open has been difficult to say the least. Efforts have been huge, results disappointing.

Attempts to adequately report on the Southwest Region have been tried. Emails go unanswered and mailings are

sometimes returned. I know there are sacred dancers doing their things and doing them well, but getting responses is hard.

Two Christian faith based-groups, one professional and one more community and Church-based, are in the birthing state of creating a dance concert/workshop. Ann Snyman, director of Ballet Sanctus and Kenda Newbury, director of AZDance Group are creating an event in the Phoenix area.

Potomac Chapter's Festival

Truly Amazing Experience

By Jessica Sawyer-Ives, North Carolina

I recently was given the opportunity to attend the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Dance Festival "Dancing Grace - It's Amazing." Thanks to the Potomac Chapter and The Sacred Dance Guild, I received a scholarship to attend the festival hosted by the Sacred Dance Ensemble of Fredericksburg, VA. This was my first time dancing with the Guild and it was truly an "Amazing" experience.

The festival gave me a chance to fellowship with a wonderful group of people that share my passion and love for dance. It also allowed me to participate in some top quality workshops. There were so many excellent workshops that I wanted to attend them all. Unfortunately, I could only choose two and of those two, the one that inspired me the most was the Master Class given by Alesh DuCarmo. "Toward the Creative Spirit" was to help us find the energy and creativity within ourselves with a sense of community. During the workshop, we formed a circle and focused on one word, "Community." Each Dancer spoke a word that meant community to them and then created a move that defined their word. As a group, we choreographed a dance using these movements. This dance was a representation of the strength and importance of a community.

Thank You!

By Florence Ridderhof

Wow, what a great weekend and thank you for "managing" it so well. The highlight for me was the entire process of having festival attendees learn "Amazing Grace"; then signing up to go to the different churches; practicing in the various sanctuaries with musicians and then meeting Sunday morning and being part of the worship service; realizing the others were in all of the other downtown churches. We were able to be with other dancers so much more in this way. It was a fantastic experience...for us and for our congregations.

Fredericksburg Experience

By Ruth Fugee

My experience was ...WONDERFUL! I love you all! I would have liked to have had a small historical tour (maybe just given by someone who lives there) of Fredericksburg as there was no time scheduled to get out and about and see the sights. I really enjoy hearing about history!

One thing I learned or discovered ...The native American sign language with P. Merle was really great. And I was educated about the box seat pews in the churches and the undercroft. I bet there is a lot more to those different historical things yet to be discovered!

I'd like to see a workshop on ...live music, singing and dancing all at the same time! I have become particularly inspired by that type of offering and was thrilled with the St. George's church choir's rendition of Amazing Grace.

But the best was Phyllis Stonebrook's workshop on crafting good dances. I learned to take the motivation of the dance (the motif) and turn it around in many directions, with speed, force, direction, even make it go backward while applying contrasting moves and shifting rhythms. The audience can't miss the meaning, and every skill level gets to express the feeling in masculine and feminine ways. This was so excellent that I'd carve out a whole day and some travel time to make a much longer workshop on these concepts.

Thank you for all your hard work. This was my first festival, and I can't wait for the next one!

Sacred Dance Festival Highlights

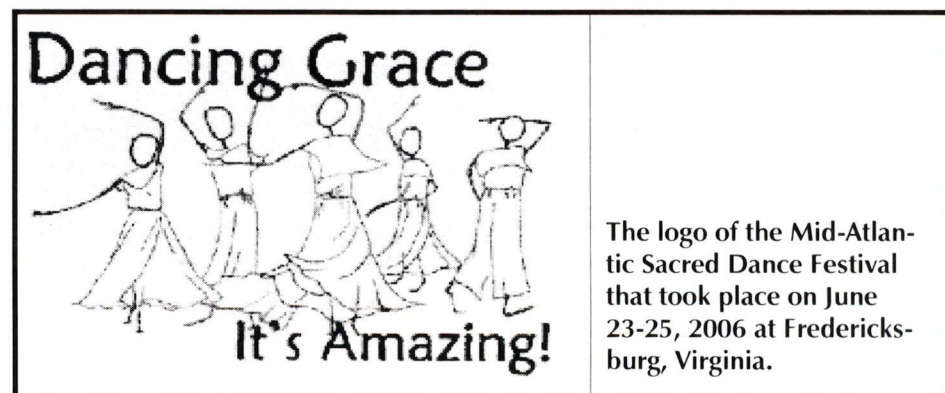
By Suzanne Bevan, Sacred Dance Ensemble of Fredericksburg

The Sacred Dance Ensemble of Fredericksburg was so pleased to invite members of the Sacred Dance Guild to our historic town for the weekend of June 23-25, 2006, as we hosted the Potomac Chapter's regional festival.

All of the classes were received with great enthusiasm and praise. Phyllis Stonebrook's class was filled with wonderful ideas and tools for better choreography. One of the participants said she wished that class could have been given to everyone - it was that good. (And we listened ... the chapter is hosting a choreography intensive on September 30 in Maryland where we'll have a workshop with Phyllis and more!)

The highlight of the weekend though, was dancing "Amazing Grace" in the six downtown churches who agreed to let us participate in their Sunday services. All of the dancers did a wonderful job learning this piece and then taking it to a sanctuary where it had to be fit into the space allowed. It was a learning experience to those who dance in one place all the time. We have to be ready for anything when we visit a new church. We need to adapt, adjust, and enjoy the experience.

As we returned and had our last meal together, the excitement and happiness over a dance well done, well accepted and feeling of "mission accomplished" was evident. We praised God for being with us throughout the weekend and sent everyone home with prayers for safety and joy to continue His good works wherever He leads.



Locating Sacred Dance Resources in Your Area

By Kat Pettycrew

As Resource Director for the Sacred Dance Guild, and Keeper of the Q&A page of our website, I get pinged for information or resources on a lot of different subjects. But two of the most common questions I address are finding sacred dance instruction and churches with dance choirs in home towns across the United States.

Admittedly, it often takes some digging. For some reason, we sacred dancers are a shy, retiring lot when it comes to advertising. (Pardon my off-color language!) We don't often get written up in newspapers, or have websites, or post performances and/or classes on multiple calendars. But we are findable.

Finding a church with dance in your area:

Watch the local papers for several weeks. Churches with dance choirs often put in notices when their groups will be presenting, or for concerts.

Contact your favorite churches to see they have dance, or know of someone in the area that has a dance choir. (This is also a good way to find out where dance choirs might be started!)

Check out the World Wide Web. Search on specific locations: i.e. "Des Moines sacred dance church". Unfortunately, this usually doesn't work for smaller localities - sacred dancers don't advertise much.

One good website that might help is Christian Dance (www.christiandance.com/sdchurch.htm) - they have a growing list of churches that have dance choirs. The list is arranged by geographic location.

Finding sacred dance instruction in your area:

Check out the Sacred Dance Guild website (www.sacreddanceguild.org) under "Chapters and Regions." Contact the Chapter or Regional Director in your area. Some members are instructors themselves; others are members of dance choirs who might accept new members or would be willing to lead workshops or have classes.

Also check out the SDG website calendars on a regular basis - anyone is allowed to post workshops, conferences, and festivals, which translates into a lot of learning opportunities.

Contact area dance studios. Some will advertise sacred dance modules; others only do sacred dance with their students in preparation for specific holidays, and therefore don't advertise sacred dance. I've found a majority of these instructors don't mind someone joining these classes, although you might have to follow the movements off in your own corner, if the choreography is for a specific number or placement of students. Being charming helps get you in.

Again, keep an eye on the local papers for performances, watching both the religious and arts pages.

Search the ever-present World Wide Web, looking under "sacred dance teachers," "classes," "events," "studios," etc.

Christian Dance Network (www.christiandance.com/sdchurch.htm) also has a Workshop page that members post classes on.

Sacred dance is growing by leaps and bounds, especially praise dance. There are things that sacred dancers can do to help provide more findable resources for others

searching for instruction or participation.

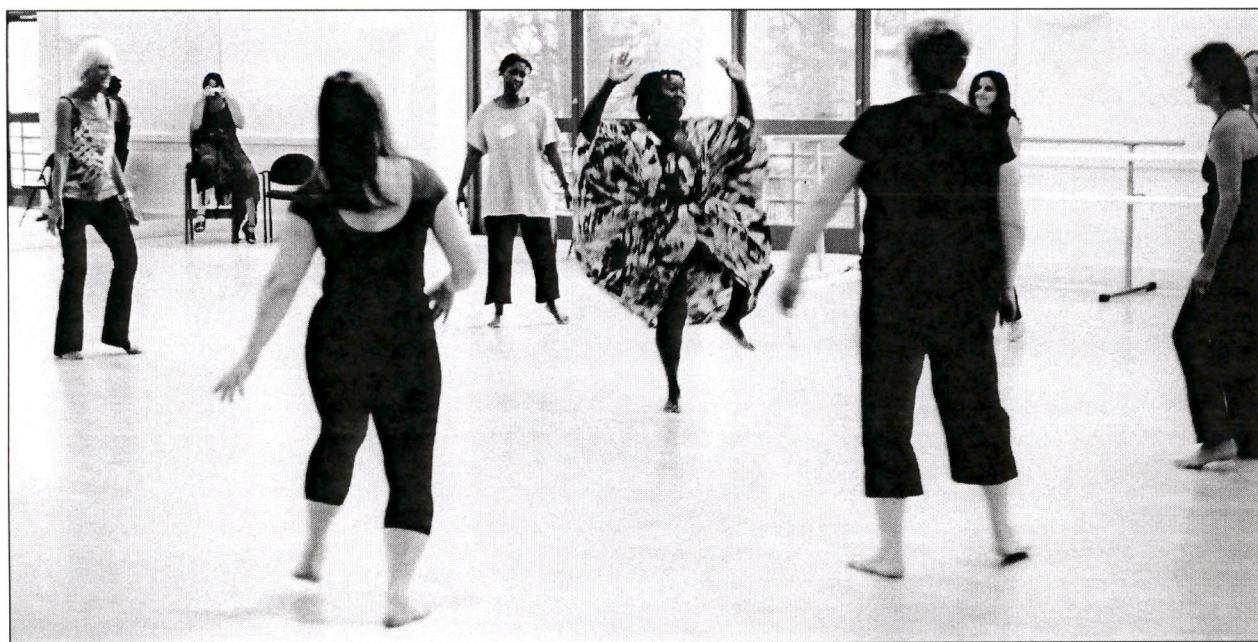
If you dance, or your place of worship has a dance/movement choir, and don't mind outsiders finding you, create a website, or a webpage on your church's website. (As an SDG member, you can create a website for free!)

If you can teach, post your services on various websites, the two big ones being the Sacred Dance Guild and Christian Dance. (Just remember that Christian Dance Network is a Christian-only website.)

Talk to local dance studios about offering a sacred dance module. I did this successfully with two of the smaller studios in my area. No money, but a lot of satisfaction. After the first semester, I bowed out, and the owners took over the module, which had grown to year-round classes.

Advertise, advertise, advertise! When you perform, if possible, invite the local press. (Okay, you'll probably have to insist on the local press showing up, up to and including blackmail and arm twisting. Just keep it legal!) If they won't or can't send a journalist, ask for at least a photographer. And if no one shows up, submit pictures and a short article after the fact. Media love it when they don't have to work at finding news. The nice thing about getting into a newspaper is that so many newspapers now have online versions. Viola! You are now permanently embedded in the WWW as a sacred dance resource!

If you have a question I might be able to help with, feel free to contact me: pettycrewkd@yahoo.com or 856-728-9546 (NJ). Joyful dancing!



Jolyn Walker's African Praise Class, New England Regional Festival, August 5, 2006

World Dance Alliance Global Assembly, July 17-21, 2006

York University, Toronto, Canada

By Stella Shizuka Matsuda

It was an honor to represent the Guild at this International event. I do recommend that we continue to send a representative whenever there is another meeting. Unfortunately no one seemed to know exactly when or where the next conference would take place. I hope we continue to receive correspondence from them so we can alert the Guild to attend.

This particular assembly was primarily for "The Americas." So many of the representatives and panelists came from the U.S., Canada, Central and South America and the Caribbean Islands. However I met many people from all over the world.

It was interesting to introduce myself as the new president representing Sacred Dance Guild, an international organization. I wondered how many people would know of us and how they would respond. It was exciting to have people say, "Oh, I have heard about you." How wonderful it was to have someone exclaim they heard about us from Rahul in India. He is the person that Connie gave a gift membership to and then he has continued to pay on his own. Others asked what we were about and I tried to explain as best I could. Primarily I handed out our lovely brochures (which I am glad I remembered to take). I wish I had a business card that also stated SDG on it, but instead, I handed out my own cards from Alleluia Dance Theater. By the way, I also left some brochures in the "book store" and was glad to see they were no longer there at the end of the conference.

There were many panels on Laban Applications, The State of the Art and Dance in various countries, Theoretical Considerations, Education, and Community Connections. There were also workshops and dance classes, which was an additional and separate expense. As is the case with these Festivals, it is frustrating to circle one panel or class only to find out that are several others you want to take at the same time.

The chair did a fantastic job in organizing this Assembly. I asked her about insurance for dancers who were performing on the side of a building, hanging from ropes. She said it took months of work and negotiation with the college. Yet there were frustrating moments when the college decided that the walls needed to be painted that week. So there the painters were, on high scaffolds, painting the hallway right where all the

panels, restrooms and refreshment area were located. She had a great registration team who worked very hard and made everyone feel welcomed by knowing the names of the attendees. They were at the table day and night. They had a wonderful group of "volunteers," mainly young people from various countries or from the area who always seemed to be there to help you find a room and just to make sure all was going well. They distributed programs for all the concerts (and there were daily concerts at noon as well as every evening). They were so pleasant and always smiling. WDA paid the tuition for them to take whatever class or attend whatever panel they wanted. Their transportation cost was not covered and I don't think they paid for their room or board. It would be wonderful if our scholarship recipients would work as hard and be visible and smiling. By the way, they wore nametags that said, "volunteer" so you knew they would help you out.

They contracted a bookstore to sell dance books and videos, much as we have done. The other items (tee shirts, posters, bags, etc.) were to be sold by the Board of Directors, who was not always there. On the last day, all the tee shirts were gone. Wow, were they all sold? No, somehow the box of shirts set aside for a youth performance was lost and so they whisked away all the tee shirts.

Speaking of youth, WDA went to various schools with dance demonstrations. The principals encouraged the youth to attend. This was all free of charge to them and included lunch. At the end, they performed (but I had to leave before that event). They had separate classes and seemed to be having a wonderful time.

I must say that I am spoiled by SDG's Festival. To have people pick you up at the airport or help you make arrangements to get to the campus is so nice. To take a taxi from the airport to the campus, cost \$50. On campus (and this is a large campus), there were no signs saying "Welcome WDA." We all had a difficult time, going up and down stairs with our luggage, looking for the room to pick up the dorm keys. There was no meal package as part of the plan. Worse, there was no information on what was available. I worried that I would "starve" there, especially when told that the nearest grocery store was about 4 miles away. I later learned there were fast food places in the campus center, but they were all closed on Sunday, the first day I

arrived. We were invited to a beautiful reception with lovely little hors d'oeuvres. I'm afraid I made a pig of myself as I tried to fill my stomach with these since I had not eaten since I left L.A. the night before. Once the conference started, they provided Danish pastries, cookies, coffee and bottles of water throughout the day - a very nice touch.

Most of the faculty came from Canada. I have sent Wendy Morrell a copy of the presenters and workshop leaders in the event she wants to contact them to do a SDG workshop. There was a beautiful opening round dance with the dancers in their native costumes from around the world. Some of these dancers were students on campus and perhaps others that came to the conference. I'd love to see that duplicated. As I mentioned earlier, there were noon concerts and evening concerts daily. Many of the groups were local, but there were wonderful dance companies from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mexico, Columbia, Argentina, Netherlands, Italy and Cyprus. Although WDA did pay an honorarium to each group, they had to find their own way to get there. Most of them had some government support, grants and sponsors and combined this with other performances they were doing in the Americas to make it affordable.

I hope SDG will continue to be represented at the next WDA. Whoever goes needs to know there are many additional expenses he/she will be paying for which include airfare and other transportation, room, food, and miscellaneous expenses. It is nice to have the tuition covered, but it still is very expensive to attend as a representative.

IN MEMORIAM

Claudia Sloan, the Lakeshore Chapter President, died. The memorial service was held August 26 at Grace Episcopal Church in Oak Park. Claudia and her husband, Michael, were known for starting the Sloan Liturgical Dance Fund at Grace Church.

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Memorial

Katherine Dunham, the groundbreaking choreographer, anthropologist and social activist who founded America's first major black modern dance company, died May 21, 2006, in New York City at the age of 96.

An indomitable cultural figure that Dance Magazine once called a "one woman revolution," Dunham brushed past barriers and social prejudices to integrate the rhythms she learned in Haiti, Brazil and Cuba into American formal dance.

"Katherine Dunham lived through an America that was deeply segregated, where race was always an issue of crisis," said actor Harry Belafonte, a friend and supporter. "For her to have made the contribution she did to culture, through her dance and her intellect, enriched America. She brought, through her art and intellectual passion and power, an insight into black life that shaped everyone's thinking of who we are."

(Editor's note: Jolyn Walker and Connie Tyler sent the above notes from the New York Times.)

Exchanges

The Sacred Dance Guild is exchanging Newsletters and Journals with the following international members of the World Dance Alliance:

Congress on Research in Dance (CORD)
dance and the Child International (daCI)
Dance Notation Bureau
International Council of Kinetography Laban (ICKL)
International Council for Traditional Music,
Ethnochoreology
Imperial Society of Teachers in Dancing
International Organization of Transition for
Professional Dancers
International Dance Committee of ITI/UNESCO
Laban Institute for Movement Studies, Laban/
Bartenieff Institute
Society of Dance History Scholars
WDA Americas
WDA Asia Pacific

SACRED DANCE GUILD-FESTIVAL 2007

CALL FOR PROPOSAL - FACULTY/PRESENTERS

Dates: July 17-22, 2007

Location: University of California, and the First Congregational Church of Berkeley (FCCB), Berkeley, California

Theme: Many Faiths, Many Forms, Dancing the Sacred Together

Thank you for offering your time, talent and creative spirit to the Sacred Dance Guild Festival 2007. Please see methods of submitting proposals below.

Snail Mail Submissions: We request three (3) copies of complete proposals postmarked by October 7, 2006 so that we can give our thoughtful consideration to all. If you wish a receipt notification, please include a self-addressed stamped postcard. We will send notification of proposal status by October 30, 2006.

Send to: Connie Tyler, Sacred Dance Guild Festival 2007
2322 8th Street
Berkeley, CA 94710

Electronic Submissions: See www.sacreddanceguild.org, click on Festivals and Festival 2007 to find form for electronic submission. Send to: connie@deephum.com

Proposal for Presenter for Festival 2007

Faculty/Presenter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail _____

Application for: Please specify

- ☐ Major Class (8 hours - four two hour sessions)
- ☐ Workshop (1 hour once or twice afternoon session(s))
- ☐ Morning warm-ups (1 hour each day- 7 am -8 am)
- ☐ Morning Ritual
- ☐ Faculty Concert
- ☐ Evening Recreation

Title of Presentation: (Six word limit) _____

Description of class: Please attach (250 Word Maximum- may be published in Journal)

Relationship to Theme: _____

Dance/ Movement Credentials and Experience: Please attach resume

Brief biography for Journal/Festival Program: Please attach

Photo: Please attach a photo for publicity purposes. If electronic, please make sure it is at least 300 dpi.

Level of Participants: (Please check)

- ☐ Experienced/ Trained dancers
- ☐ New dancers
- ☐ Mixed Levels

Maximum Class Size _____

Equipment:

We will provide a cd/tape deck. We can provide chairs if needed.

Please indicate any other specific requirements or information needed for planning: _____

MAAE Award

The Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education presented Sacred Dance Guild member Elaine Herg Sisler with the Distinguished Arts Educator in Dance award at the State House in Boston on June 8, 2006. The MAAE Champion of Arts Education Awards honor individuals and organizations that have made exceptional contributions to arts education and continue to make strides towards the goal of high quality arts education for every child in Massachusetts. Since, 1984, MAAE has recognized over 200 arts educators and advocates.

Elaine has a long and impressive history as an arts advocate, dancer, teacher, performer and arts integration specialist. For over thirty years she has brought the beauty of music, movement and dance to schools in New York, Maryland, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Her *Arts in Motion* programs integrate and celebrate dance through direct classroom instruction for pre-school to graduate school level



Pictured (from left to right) at the awards ceremony are Bill Sisler, Elaine's husband, her mother and SDG member Lee Herg, Elaine and friends including SDG and fellow Skyloom member Shirley Blancke (far right).

students, after-school enrichment and professional development workshops for teachers.

Elaine is a proud member of the Sacred Dance Guild and the Skyloom Liturgical Dance Company.

From Incoming President

Continued from page 1

globe met to discuss the good health of dance in all its forms and cultures under the theme: Dance/Diversity/Dialogue—Bridging Communities and Cultures. And isn't that what we are about: To learn, respect and understand diverse cultures, traditions and religions? I was excited at the positive response to our organization. Many delegates were interested and curious about sacred dance. I explained that often when a deep "spirituality" is expressed in their dances, that they were a form of sacred dance. I would like to see that all peoples begin to recognize and accept that beauty in the dance that has a reverence and an inner source that directs the dance.

*With blessings as you dance wherever you may be,
Stella Shizuka Matsuda, StellaSDG@rejoicendt.org*

RECIPROCAL AFFILIATIONS

The Sacred Dance Guild has collegial status with the following organizations: This is a reciprocal agreement whereby members of the Guild may attend activities of these organizations at the same fee their own members pay (proof of SDG membership is required). Members of these organizations may attend Guild activities in the same way.

American Dance Guild, P. O. Box 2006, Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021 (212) 932-2789.

International Association for Creative Dance (IACD), 103 Princeton Avenue, Providence, RI 02907, website www.dancecreative.org.

International Liturgical Dance Association (ILDA) of NPM (National Association of Pastoral Musicians), 3215 Bellacre Court, Cincinnati, OH 45248-5005 (513) 451-6746.

National Dance Association, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091 (703) 476-3436.

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Saturday, October 7th 10am-10pm
Downtown Historic Phoenixville, PA

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with PABA's First Friday
and Kiwanis' Community Day

MEMOS FROM THE MINUTES

SDG EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES, MARCH 24 & 25, 2006

Attendees: Officers: Ellen Roberts Young, Stella Matsuda, Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Directors: Emmalyn Moreno, Connie Tyler, Barrie Gibby, Kat Pettycrew, Karen Josephson; Directors Elect: Sarah Ostyn, Kristin Rose; Members: Phyllis Strader (Friday Evening), Fran Eargle (Saturday Afternoon); Administrator: Peggy Hoffman.

Proxies: For Toy True – Kristin Rose, for Annmarie Pittman – Sarah Ostyn, for Jolyn Walker – Phyllis Strader

The meeting opened at 7:10 p.m. with dance led by Stella Matsuda.

Email votes since last meeting:

1. Minutes of November 4-5 Meeting were approved by vote completed February 23, 2006.
2. Date of Annual Membership Meeting was set for August 5, 2006 by vote completed March 13, 2006.
3. Accepting pre-distributed reports: **Emmalyn moved** to accept and **Mary Katherine seconded** a motion to accept all submitted reports. Motion passed.
 - a. President (Ellen Roberts Young)
 - b. President-Elect (Stella Matsuda)
 - c. Vice President (Mary Katherine Greenlaw)
 - d. Treasurer (Jolyn Walker)
 - e. Festival Director (Karen Josephson)
 - f. Recording Secretary (Annmarie Pittman)
 - g. Resource Director (Kat Pettycrew)
 - h. Director of Chapters (Emmalyn Moreno)
 - i. Website Communications (Connie Tyler)
 - j. Journal (Toni' Intravaia)
 - k. Director of Development (Barrie Gibby)
4. Youth camp:
 - a. Kristin and Sarah passed out Toy's youth director report for the Margaret Taylor Doane grant (\$1000), and copies of the 4 applications received (Emmalyn, Southern California Chapter, Parables, Skyloom). **Toy's recommendation** that the grant money be split evenly between the 4 applicants (\$250 each) was accepted as a motion. **Karen seconded**, motion passed. Toy was asked to iterate that the money is to be spent on youth only.

Stella moved to adjourn; **Sarah seconded**. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:52 to resume at 9:30 a.m. 03/25.

Saturday, 03/25/06

The meeting was reconvened with dance outside at 9:35 a.m.

5. Additional Director's Reports: **Stella moved** and **Barrie seconded** a motion to accept the Youth and Administrative reports that had been handed out the night before. Motion passed.
6. Journal Advertising:
 - a. There was discussion about whether advertising for free or reduced rates in the Journal should be a membership perk. It was decided this is impractical until the Journal can pay for

itself. Current rates were discussed; consensus was to keep them as they are.

- b. **Mary Katherine moved** and **Connie seconded** a motion to make classified ads a perk for members, effective with the Fall 2006 issue, at the following new rates:

- i. 1 – 10 words are free,
 - ii. 11 – 20 words are \$10,
 - iii. 21 – 40 words are \$20,
 - iv. 41+ words = 1/8 page ad (\$40).
- Motion passed. Ellen will contact Toni' Intravaia and Deena Sherman with the new member price structure.

7. Administrative Staff:

- a. Overnight, Board members examined Mariner Management's recommendation to have a paid Festival registrar, with SDG accepting oversight responsibilities for Festivals. Barrie moved and Karen seconded that the recommendations be accepted. Motion passed.
- b. The Board also examined Mariner Management's proposal to extend the current services to include Festival registration and financial duties as outlined in the proposal. Discussion ensued about what this would mean to future Festival Teams. An additional bullet concerning Festival assistance (paid or included) was added to the list of services.
- c. **Karen moved** and **Emmalyn seconded** a motion that the Board accept the new Mariner Management contract contingent on Mariner Management's acceptance of the new bulleted service item (Festival assistance with sponsors, advertising, merchants, grants, etc.). Motion passed. Peggy accepted the new item on Mariner Management's behalf.

Afternoon break

8. Development

- a. The autumn fund raising letter focused on raising money for operational costs. The spring letter will discuss Planned Giving and funding for SDG's 50th anniversary. Barrie will do a report on the process. It was discussed whether our other avenues of donations (restricted gifts) would be mentioned in this letter. The Board agreed by consensus that a focus on restricted funds was not appropriate at this time.
- b. It was suggested that a page be added to the website describing ways to donate and funds available for donation. An idea was tendered that donations could be made to a specific cost, i.e. one mailing of the Journal, cost of a workshop presenter, etc.
- c. Barrie suggested a campaign to raise \$50,000 for SDG's 50th anniversary be put forth. This could be introduced at the 2006 Annual Meeting, with information given describing what SDG functions the funds would support.

- d. Fran pointed out that SDG needs to establish specific goals before applying for grants; how much funding is needed, what the funds would be spent on, etc. Lilly and Dow Corning were suggested as possible grant providers. SDG needs to investigate how much money is needed to generate a grant proposal, since this would affect future budgets.

- e. The Board was asked to list what grant funds could be used for and then voted on SDG priorities. The results were:

- i. Member Services/Resources: \$80,000 (Definitive guide on Sacred Dance, written handbook, Journal upgrade, website)
- ii. Chapter Development: \$5000 (resources for local programs)
- iii. Festival 2008/50th Anniversary: \$50,000 (grants to people, international events, etc.)
- iv. Grants to provide memberships: \$5000
- v. Other ideas for the future:
 - a. Choreography Sources: \$30,000
 - b. Visual Image: \$5,000
 - c. PR: ?
 - d. Institution/Capacity Building: \$25,000
 - e. Education (Festival facilitation, emissaries to Chapters): \$8000/yr
 - f. Leadership Development: \$25,000
 - g. International Development and Exchange: \$10,000

- f. **Karen moved** and **Mary Katherine seconded** a motion to establish the above four areas as our SDG priorities for grant funding, and to hand this list over to the Development Committee for a strategy to be presented and voted on at the August 2006 Board meeting. Motion passed.

9. PR Video:

- a. It was suggested that a video is no longer the most viable way to use the Colley Ballou Memorial Fund. Since it was the Board in place at the time of the gift that specified the money be spent on an SDG video, the current Board is free to change the parameters. A new proposal was made that the money could be better spent creating a PowerPoint presentation for placement on the SDG website. The Public Relations Committee will be asked to take this on.
- b. **Kristin moved** and **Stella seconded** a motion that the word "video" be removed from the Colley Ballou Memorial Fund language, and the money be used for a more current form of public relations media. Motion passed.

Barrie moved and **Fran seconded** a motion to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Kat Pettycrew
(Recording Secretary Pro-Tem)*

"From east to west and north to south, let us praise God. Gifts from many cultures enriching God's people"

By Sister Martha Ann Kirk, Th.D.

At Pentecost the Spirit of God was poured out on people of many nations, on old and young, male and female. St. Paul writes, "There is neither Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female, we are all one in Christ Jesus." Christian Worship should be a celebration of diversity and unity stretching people's hearts and minds to seek justice and share compassion. This past year at the University of the Incarnate



Zambians dancing in hope in an area where 70% of the people are dying of AIDS.

Word in San Antonio, Texas, we had a Worship Renewal Grant that provided a series of workshops and performances celebrating the breadth of Christianity. The series included gifts from Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Orthodox, African and African American, Asian and Asian American, and the Euro-American traditions. The program was made possible through a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. As we focused on worship renewal in general, we came to recognize the transformative value of dance and drama in prayer. Please visit www.sacreddanceguild.org and click on Articles to see the link and the color pictures which say more than the words of this article.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . .

We have seen His glory. . .

In Wisdom dancing with the Vietnamese until the gentle melodies
become stronger than the cries of the boat people drowning,

The Word made flesh in stories of people seeking refuge
after the devastation of Katrina, the displacement of Palestinians,
the massacres in Sierra Leone,

In the drama of the man born blind who comes to see the Christ
while the people around the man become blind to Christ's glory,

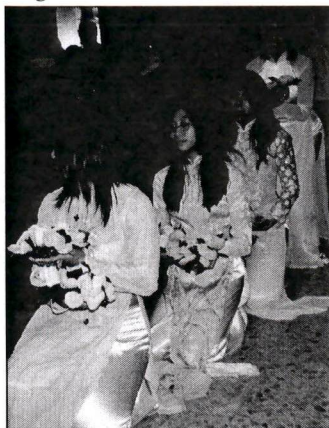
In the "Amazing Grace" of Korean American children
playing the song on the instruments of their grandparents,

And the Word became flesh in the womb of Mary,
imaged as the Nahuatl Guadalupe, and among the native
people of the New World the Word
echoed in songs of hope and dignity,

In the sounds of the ancient chant so close
to the Aramaic Jesus spoke
and strumming of harps and ouds,

In the persistent praise of the African
American tradition,
reverberating with courageous hope
in the midst of the challenges,

Yes, we have seen the glory of the Word
made flesh,
the image of the unseen God, prying
open our eyes
to see the Divine reflected in all the
peoples of the earth.



**Dancers of Vietnamese Martyrs
Catholic Church, San Antonio.**

SDG CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS

NY/SW Connecticut Chapter

The NY/SW Connecticut Chapter held a Regional Festival on Sunday, April 30, 2006, at St. Stephen of Hungary Church featuring dance legends, Matteo Vittucci and Mary Anthony. The workshop began with a series of stimulating and challenging exercises by Ms. Anthony followed by mudras (Indian hand movements) explained by Matteo and demonstrated by Betsy O'Neill. The afternoon ended with a panel discussion with the two legends moderated by Betsy O'Neill. A DVD of the workshop, funded in part by the Guild, is available for \$15.00 plus \$5.00 P&H, from Betsy O'Neill (212-535-4235).

Rocky Mountain

"There is a Season" was the theme of the Rocky Mountain Chapter's annual sharing event on May 6 at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. Seven groups shared their dances along with vocal, and piano and flute duets. During the celebration a moving tribute was presented for four members who recently died. A silent auction to benefit the Connie Fisher endowment, fellowship and lunch followed the dances.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter will hold a "Mini Festival" workshop on November 4th at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. The workshop will be led by Letitia Williams, former dance instructor at Colorado University, and Kathy Hayes. The title of their workshop is "Dancing the Gospels."

Canada

Rock'a My Soul, a gospel celebration of song, dance and drum with Valerie London and Suzan Lavertu was presented on April 22 and 23 at the Plarkdale United Church in Ottawa.

Advertise in the SDG Journal

Ad per ONE (1) issue
One-half page.....\$100.00
One-quarter page.....60.00
One-eighth or business card.....40.00

Ad per THREE (3) issues
One-half page.....\$275.00
One-quarter page.....150.00
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For information or assistance in placing an ad, please contact Deena Sherman at Deenabess@yahoo.com

RECOMMENDED READING/VIEWING

Video:

"Called to Dance, Anointed to Minister" (2004) (\$23 + S/H) by N'Him (www.n-him.org/), full choreographed dances (Warfare, Worship, Celebration, Travail, Prophetic, Praise)

"Asana: Sacred Dance of the Yogis" (1998) by Mystic Fire Video. Three parts, two of yoga movements put to music, and one of movements with narration.

Books:

In Him We Move: Creative Dancing In Worship by Janet Randell (\$27) (ISBN No. 1-900507-83-8) Addresses various kinds of dance, including dance for sight, learning, and movement impaired dancers. There are exercises as well as improvisation. Available online through Janet Randell (website.lineone.net/~janet_randell/html/publications).

html), Eisenbrauns (www.eisenbrauns.com/ECOM/_1V3082W8V.HTM), Amazon.com, and eBay.

Music:

"Shalom Jerusalem" by Paul Wilbur (1995 cassette, 2002 DVD) Hosanna! Music (ASIN B0000DU1L) Excellent praise dance music on Side 1, more contemplative music on Side 2. This is a live performance and there is an accompanying video that is out of print at this time. Dancers were present at the performance.

DVD:

"We Come Dancing with Dance Legends Matteo and Mary Anthony," the DVD of this historic Sacred Dance Guild Regional Festival held in New York City on April 30, 2006. This DVD (36 minutes) features highlights of master classes and a

panel with these two honorary life members of the Sacred Dance Guild.

To order send \$20 (S&H included) to Betsy O'Neill, 317 East 83rd Street, Apartment 2RE, New York, NY 10028. Please make checks payable to: Sacred Dance Guild, NY/SW Conn. Chapter.

Guild Brochures

A copy of our newest brochure is enclosed in this Journal. This one is for you to give to a friend.

If you hold events, have a studio, or go places where brochures can be distributed, please contact the office for more: sdg@marinermanagement.com or 1-877-422-8678. They are free for the asking.

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CALENDAR

September 30, 2006 - Choreography Intensive: Crafting Dances at Hyattsville, Maryland with the Potomac Chapter led by Phyllis Stonebrook. Contact: Leggy Hoffman, 301-725-2508 or by email phoffman@marinermanagement.com.

October 6-7, 2006 - Sacred Arts Festival, Phoenixville, PA.

November 4, 2006 - Rocky Mountain Chapter Mini-Festival "Dancing the Gospels" at Iliff School of Theology Great Hall, Denver, Colorado with Letitia Williams and Kathy Hayes. Contact: Carolyn Lutoff, Phone 303-433-1110.

November 11, 2006 - Isadora Duncan Master Class & Sharing at Alexandria, VA with Jeanne Bresciani. Contact: Peggy Hoffman 301-725-2508.

September -December, 2006 - "Photography/Spirituality/Ecology" Tuesday Evenings 6 to 9 pm. Contact: Dr. Hilary Marck Phone 510-849-8285.

March 13-17, 2007 - AAHPERD National Convention, Baltimore, MD. www.aahperd.com.

April 5-9, 2007 - Barcelona Dance Awards Competition in Barcelona and Spain. Contact: dance2006@tiscali.it - Students, Directors - International Competition.

April 29, 2007 - The NY/SW Connecticut Chapter's Spring Workshop at St. Stephen of Hungary Church. Contact: Betsy O'Neill - Phone 212-535-4235.

June 21-25, 2007 - Barcelona Dance Awards Competition in Paris, France. Contact: dance2006@tiscali.it - Students, Directors - International Competition.

July 17-22, 2007 - Festival 2007 "Many Faiths, Many Forms" University of

California, Berkeley, California. Contact: Connie Tyler connie@deephum.com.

Executive Board Meetings
February 16-17, 2007
Place: TBA

Sacred Dance Guild Web Site:
www.sacreddanceguild.org

You can apply for membership to the Sacred Dance Guild in three ways: 1) Complete the form and return with your membership dues. 2) Join online at our website, www.sacreddanceguild.org. 3) Email to: Peggy Hoffman (see address below).

Name _____	Address _____	City _____	State/Province _____
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Membership Dues:		1 year Domestic/International Membership	\$50
		2 year Domestic/International Membership	\$80
		1 year Student Membership	\$35
		1 year Senior (65+) Membership	\$30
		1 year Group Membership	\$90
		Life Membership	\$1,000

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Please return to: Sacred Dance Guild, P.O. Box 1046, Laurel, MD 20725-1046, e-mail info@sacreddanceguild.org



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